



HOLLISTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Hollister Police Department Warns Dog Owners About Canine Influenza Virus (CIV)

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA – *November 9, 2009* – The Hollister Police Department’s Animal Control Bureau is warning dog owners about the Canine Influenza Virus (CIV), a newly emerging infectious disease caused by a flu virus in dogs. The virus is a highly contagious strain of the influenza “A” virus known as H3N8.

Just like the human flu, canine influenza virus is highly contagious, and every dog exposed to the virus will be infected. This is because the virus is relatively new, and dogs have no natural immunity to it.

Dogs who visit shelters, rescue centers, kennels, groomers, or “doggie day care” are at the greatest risk of contracting the virus. Dogs visiting dog parks, engaging in walks with other dogs, entering dog events or attending group dog training are also at elevated risk.

Canine influenza is usually mild, but can become quite serious in some dogs. The most common symptoms of CIV are a persistent cough; low to high-grade fever; nasal discharge; lack of energy and loss of appetite. In approximately 20% of the cases more severe signs, such as a high fever and pneumonia, will occur. A small number of dogs have died from complications associated with the disease.

Hollister animal control officers urge dog owners to vaccinate their dogs against CIV. Only a licensed veterinarian can vaccinate dogs. The CIV vaccine requires two doses within thirty days.

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